

NEW PUBLICATIONS.

DUCE WEST; OR ROUND THE WORLD IN TEN MONTHS. By MATTHEW M. BALLON. 12 mo. pp. 387. Houghton, Mifflin & Co.

Mr. Ballon was one of a party of four persons who, in the autumn of '82, started from Boston for a tour round the world, "personally conducted" by one of Mr. Cook's men. This is not the sort of journey which would be undertaken by the literary artist or by the longing soul who sees in travel uncounted delights of imagination and of study; but it is doubtless of use to the person of substantial mind who desires to inform and broaden that excellent possession. To all such propulsive tourists Mr. Ballon's volume will be attractive as an epitome of what one of their kind has seen and of what they will have to look for. He writes in conscientious and sedate manner, giving neat little sketches of places and people, with divers passages concerning political and economic conditions, shaded now and again by a bit of moralizing. No part of his record is particularly fresh; much of it is sententious statement of well-known facts; and humor, that element so desirable in a book of travel, is hardly visible. It is as a careful and an agreeable guide-book that this chronicle will be of value. The route taken was from Boston across the Continent and the Pacific to Japan, and thence to China, India, Africa, Spain and France to Antwerp and home.

MEMORIE AND RIME. By JOAQUIN MILLER. Author of "Songs of the Sierras," "The Danites," etc. 12mo. pp. 237. Standard Library. Funk & Wagnalls.

Mrs. LOUISA B. CULVER will receive pupils beginning Feb. 27, in Drawing, Oil and Water Color Painting, Still Life, Flowers and Landscape, China Painting and Decoration. Studio, No. 11, West Monroe Ave. References: Mr. D. HUNTINGTON, Mr. WILLIAM HART, Mr. JAMES HART, M. A. F. BELLOWS.

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Musical.

MISS KATE FULLER, teacher and graduate from the Conservatory and pupil of A. Marcello, in Paris, receives pupils in piano, harmony and organ. For credentials and terms apply to me, to 1 p.m., 74 West 48th-st.

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THACKERAY AND DICKENS TO A LITERARY ASPIRANT.

From the *Wall Street Journal*.

It is well known that one of the greatest annoyances to which writers of repute—novelists more especially—are subjected is the continual application made to them to be used in their works of criticism and advice. In the present writer, the most numerous as a rule are the applicants. If I could find, if somewhat surprising, to find that busi-men like Charles Dickens and Thackeray, overwhelmed with work of their own, would never turn a deaf ear to the appeals of their correspondents, but would readily give them the benefit of their frank and disinterested judgment.

The first, and a kindly and didactic expression of adverse opinion, characterized by great consideration for the feelings of the inquirer:

Tuesday, 16th August 1859.—Sir, I have read your poems, and I regret to add that you cannot by any means be truly sensible of the confidence you repose in me, and I am not unworthy of it. They are, I do not doubt, exceedingly good, and the eminent writer, the most numerous as a rule are the applicants. If I could find, if somewhat surprising, to find that busi-men like Charles Dickens and Thackeray, overwhelmed with work of their own, would never turn a deaf ear to the appeals of their correspondents, but would readily give them the benefit of their frank and disinterested judgment.

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